

## Our Lady Queen of Hope School – Detroit

In 1955, Our Lady Queen of Hope began as a “satellite” of St. Mary of Redford parish. Three IHM Sisters opened the school for students in grades one through four.

The following year, the school hired two lay teachers to join the sisters in teaching 269 students in first through seventh grades. Because there were so many children, first- and second-graders had half-day sessions. “These arrangements had to be made because the four new classrooms...were not completed,” says the convent chronicler. Only four classrooms were available. The school added eighth grade in 1957.



By September 1959, 390 children attended Queen of Hope. They enjoyed the new school library and attended the dedication of the corridor statue of Mary. The eighth-graders launched a courtesy campaign over the newly installed public address system.

Small changes occurred during the next few years. The French, science and math programs utilized TV sets; the library grew and added filmstrips and records to its collection. One of the more lasting changes

happened in May 1963, when “the school body joined in procession to crown the statue, ‘Madonna of the Way,’ at the newly erected outdoor shrine.” This was the first record of the annual May crowning.

Sister Stella Maris, IHM, taught the eighth-graders during 1965 – our **Featured Class Year**. Sister John Michael, IHM, directed students in publishing the school newspaper, *5 Hour Daze*, every two weeks. “The use of the vernacular in the Mass began...the first Sunday of Advent,” according to the convent chronicler. Students contributed food and toys for those less fortunate and also raised money to send to Miss Beale, a former teacher working in Bolivia. The May crowning was indoors that year because of inclement weather. **Kathleen Ronayne** crowned the statue, with **Louise Even** and **Maureen Griffin** in attendance. “**Peter Wallahan** of the first grade was the crown bearer.”



On June 9, 1965, parishioners received word that Our Lady Queen of Hope would become a parish separate from St. Mary of Redford. The following day, the 50 eighth-graders graduated.

The late 1960s saw enrollment decrease, from a high of 420 in 1962 to 313 during 1970-71. The school dropped eighth grade at the end of that year, but grades one through seven remained active. They enjoyed trips to the Benedictine Apple Orchard in Oxford, Mich., raised money for the missions and made baskets of

food and clothing for those in need. Students held Seder meals, participated in an outdoor education program and sold candy to raise money for the school.

In spite of the best efforts of students, faculty, parents and the parish, Our Lady Queen of Hope closed at the end of the 1976-77 school year. The parish remained open until 1989, when it was closed by the Archdiocese of Detroit.

## **In 1965**

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and more than 2,600 others were arrested in Selma, Ala., during demonstrations against voter-registration rules.

Malcolm X, black-nationalist leader, was shot to death at a Harlem rally.

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Social Security Act of 1965 into law, establishing Medicare and Medicaid.

ABC paid an unprecedented \$32 million for a four-year contract with the NCAA to broadcast football games on Saturday afternoons.

The first draft card burnings took place at the University of California, Berkeley, and a coffin was marched to the Berkeley Draft Board.

*The Sound of Music* premiered. It was an instant hit and one of the top-grossing films of 1965.

Early Bird, the first commercial communications satellite, was launched.

Wally Schirra and Thomas Stafford aboard Gemini VI performed the first rendezvous with another spacecraft, Gemini VII, with Frank Borman and James Lovell.

Winston Churchill, Nat King Cole, T.S. Eliot and Gloria Morgan-Vanderbilt died. Sarah Jessica Parker, Robert Downey Jr., Brooke Shields and J. K. Rowling were born.